

# Ban on coastal drilling remains

## Corzine fights energy bill changes

**Published in the Asbury Park Press 06/25/05**

### STAFF REPORT

WASHINGTON — An agreement has been made to prevent amendments to the \$16 billion national energy bill. The changes would have weakened the moratorium on oil and natural gas drilling on the Outer Continental Shelf.

After several amendments to undermine the 24-year-old moratorium were filed, Sen. Jon S. Corzine, D-N.J., spent Thursday on the Senate floor threatening to hold up the bill and warding off amendments that he said would lead to drilling off the New Jersey coast.

The far-reaching energy bill was essentially completed. It awaits a final vote Tuesday.

Corzine hailed the agreement made Thursday and said the Senate had chosen the responsible path to protect the Jersey Shore from unnecessary environmental and economic risks.

"By ensuring that no state may opt out of the moratorium, we ensure that no one state can act in a way that steps on the rights of any other," Corzine said. "Our coastal waters know no boundaries. Drilling off any one state's coast would put every states' coasts at risk."

Copyright © 2005 Asbury Park Press. All rights reserved.

Use of this site indicates your agreement to the [Terms of Service](#). (Updated 4/13/05)

Site design by [Asbury Park Press](#) / [Contact us](#)